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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/729,880	12/05/2003	Katsunari Tezuka	14539-005002 / JF-82US-C1	9815
26161	7590	09/10/2007	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON PC P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			OUSPENSKI, ILIA I	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1644	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/729,880

Applicant(s)

TEZUKA ET AL.

Examiner

ILIA OUSPENSKI

Art Unit

1644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment and remarks, filed on 06/27/2007, are acknowledged.

Claims 1 – 17 and 19 – 32 have been cancelled.

Claim 18 is pending.

2. This Office Action will be in response to Applicant's amendment and arguments, filed on 06/27/2007.

The rejections of record can be found in the previous Office Action, mailed on 04/13/2007.

It is noted that New Grounds of Rejection are set forth herein.

3. The following is a quotation of the **first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112**:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claim 18 is rejected under **35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph**, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Applicant is not in possession of the claimed method, because Applicant is not in possession of the generically recited "AILIM."

The instant specification discloses at pages 17 – 18 that AILIM encompasses the respective polypeptides of human, rat, and mouse origin, as well as polypeptides having substantially the same amino acid sequence, such as having multiple amino acids, preferably 1 to 10, substituted, deleted and/or modified, as long as the polypeptide has substantially the same biological properties. The disclosure that it is preferable that 1 to 10 amino acids be altered is not limiting, and therefore polypeptide variants with any number of amino acid substitutions, deletions, and/or modifications are within the scope of the recited "AILIM."

Applicant has disclosed a limited number of species; therefore, the skilled artisan cannot envision all the contemplated amino acid sequence possibilities recited in the instant claims. Consequently, conception in either case cannot be achieved until a representative description of the structural and functional properties of the claimed invention has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention. The sequences themselves are required. See Fiers v. Revel, 25 USPQ2d 1601, 1606 (CAFC 1993).

The written description requirement can be met by "show[ing] that an invention is complete by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics ... i.e., complete or partial structure, other physical and/or chemical properties, functional characteristics when coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or some combination of such characteristics." Guidelines, 66 Fed. Reg. at 1106.

Art Unit: 1644

A description of a genus of protein sequences may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of polypeptide sequences, defined by amino acid sequence, falling within the scope of the genus, or of a recitation of structural features common to the genus, which features constitute a substantial portion of the genus.

Regents of the University of California v. Eli Lilly & Co., 119 F.3d 1559, 1569, 43 USPQ2d 1398, 1406 (Fed. Cir. 1997).

Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19 USPQ2d 1111, makes clear that "applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of the invention. The invention is, for purposes of the written description inquiry, whatever is now claimed." (See page 1117.) The specification does not "clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed." (See Vas-Cath at page 1116.). Consequently, Applicant was not in possession of the instant claimed invention. See University of California v. Eli Lilly and Co. 43 USPQ2d 1398.

Applicant is directed to the Guidelines for the Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112, ¶ 1 "Written Description" Requirement, Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 1099-1111, January 5, 2001.

Applicant is invited to consider limiting the scope of the claims to e.g. "human AILIM," in order to overcome this rejection.

5. The following is a quotation of **35 U.S.C. 103(a)** which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

6. Claim 18 is rejected under **35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Krocze (DE 198 21 060; of record; see the Certified English translation), as evidenced by the definition of "AILIM" in the instant specification at page 17, in view of Black et al. (US Patent No. 6,440,418; see entire document).

Krocze teaches an antibody to the 8F4 polypeptide (see entire document).

The 8F4 polypeptide is a human AILIM polypeptide as evidenced by the definition of AILIM at page 17 of the instant specification.

Krocze further teaches that antibodies to the 8F4 polypeptide can be used as pharmaceutical compositions to block the interaction of the 8F4 antigen with its receptor

Art Unit: 1644

in methods of preventing rejection reactions in organ transplants (see e.g., page 12 of translation). Although KroczeK does not specifically exemplify the inhibition of interferon-gamma and interleukin 4 by antibodies to 8F4/AILIM, the individual cytokines inhibited would be inherent in any method comprising contacting AILIM/8F4 in vivo with a blocking antibody.

KroczeK does not specifically exemplify treatment of graft versus host reaction with anti-AILIM antibodies.

However, it was well known in the art at the time the invention was made that antibodies which inhibit T cell activation and/or T cell-mediated responses, and which are useful in treating transplant rejection, are also useful in treating graft versus host reaction. For example, Black et al. teach an anti-gp39 antibody can be used for treating both transplant rejection and graft versus host reaction, due to its ability to inhibit T cell activation and T cell-mediated responses (e.g. column 32, lines 47 – 53).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of Black et al. to those of KroczeK to arrive at the instantly claimed method. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to do so, and have a reasonable expectation of success, because of the teachings of Black et al. that an antibody which inhibit T cell activation and/or T cell-mediated responses, and which are useful in treating transplant rejection, are also useful in treating graft versus host reaction.

Therefore, the invention as a whole was *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, as evidenced by the references, especially in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

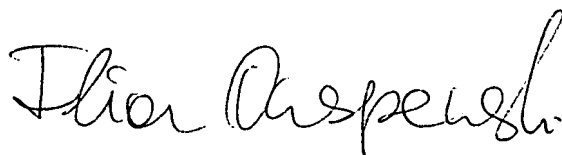
7. Conclusion: no claim is allowed.

Art Unit: 1644

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ILIA OUSPENSKI whose telephone number is 571-272-2920. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Chan can be reached on 571-272-0841. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



ILIA OUSPENSKI, Ph.D.

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 1644

September 4, 2007